



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2007
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SIX INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED ON LOW-INCOME HOUSING FRAUD CHARGES

COLUMBUS – Six individuals have been arrested on federal charges that they fraudulently obtained U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) low-income subsidy benefits by making false statements about their incomes.

U.S. Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart of the Southern District of Ohio, Kenneth M. Donohue, Inspector General, HUD and Jim Walrab, U.S. Marshal, today announced that Amanda Hines of 1199 East Woodrow Avenue, Columbus; John Donnell of 2169 Lynbridge Drive, Reynoldsburg; Regina Green, also known as Regina Minter, of 3194 Adirondack Avenue, Columbus; Jeffrey Carter and Rhoshiika Carter of 8810 Greylag Loop, Blacklick; and, Gloria Dupree of 3700 Noe Bixby Road, Columbus were each charged in separate criminal complaints that charged them with making false statements about their incomes in order to obtain housing subsidies under a federal low-income housing program. The offense of making false statements, as charged in the complaints, is a felony that provides for a term of imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of up to \$250,000 upon conviction.

As set forth in affidavits filed with the criminal complaints, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a department of the United States, to administer the housing choice voucher program, often referred to as Section Eight. The housing choice voucher program is a program of the United States government for assisting very low-income families, elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.

Under the provisions of the Section Eight program, CMHA pays a landlord a housing subsidy on behalf of a participating family. The family pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. CMHA Section Eight tenants are required to re-certify eligibility for benefits annually or on an interim basis as required.

As part of the process of certification and/or recertification for housing subsidy benefits, CMHA Section Eight tenants are required to bring to an interview at CMHA verification of current

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employment, income, and assets. All household members eighteen years and older review and sign a personal declaration form regarding employment, income, and assets. CMHA mails verification forms to third parties to confirm information provided by the tenant during the certification interview.

The affidavits detail how each of the six individuals arrested by the U.S. Marshal Service Southern Ohio Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (SOFAST) failed to truly report his or her income when applying for or maintaining receipt of Section Eight benefits.

Inspector General Donohue noted that the investigation of low-income housing fraud in the Section Eight program administered by CMHA is continuing, and charges against other individuals are expected.

U.S. Attorney Lockhart emphasized that the details contained in these criminal complaints and affidavits are allegations, and that every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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